

Wooded Island Bird Walk Report for Saturday, February 9, 2013

Hello to All,

Julie, a new birder from Hyde Park joined the group this morning.

The lagoons were frozen and ice was underfoot. Karin managed well, wearing a pair of YakTrax over her shoes. The rest of us took small careful steps along the entire circuit.

A pocket of birds were found in the Rose Garden on Wooded Island.

The other major sighting was an ADULT WHITE-WINGED SCOTER in the Outer Harbor. I caught a quick but good look at the scoter in the scope before it plunged beneath the water at the north end of the harbor, beside a dock. I saw its' right flank from the back. The white wing chevron was obvious in a dark chocolate back, and the chunky head was black. I did not see his face. Others only got a quick glance. Later, it was learned that White-winged Scoters were seen in good numbers along the south end of lakefront at the same time.

BIRDERS: 10. Karin C., Jennie, Jennette, Sally, Rick, Leo, Carol, Phil, Julie & Pat.

TIME: 8:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

PLACES: Wooded Island, Bobolink Meadow, 66th St. Harbor and Lakefront

WEATHER: Cloudy. Temperature 28 F. Winds: SSE 10 – 15 mph

TOTAL SPECIES COUNT: 20

Canada Goose – X. Small flocks flew over Wooded Island and Bobolink Meadow. Others were in the Outer Harbor.

Mallard – 2 pair (M/F) were in the 59th St. Marina. 25 more were in the Outer Harbor.

Redhead – At least 5 males with females are in the Outer Harbor.

Greater/Lesser Scaup – 18 Outer Harbor.

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER – 1. Adult Outer Harbor

Bufflehead – 4. Outer Harbor

Common Goldeneye – 2 males were in the Marina. Several more were in the Outer Harbor, both male and female. Flocks were out in the Lake, at the end of the 63rd St. Pier.

Common Merganser – X. Small flocks in the Lake.

Red-breasted Merganser – 2 females and 1 male were in the Outer Harbor Flocks were out on the Lake.

American Kestrel – 1. Phil spotted one in the trees near the 63rd St. Beach House.

Ring-billed Gull – X Outer Harbor.

Herring Gull – X Several in the Outer Harbor.

Downy Woodpecker – 1 was heard on Wooded Island. Another was seen near the Music Bridge.

European Starling – 1. Near Darrow Bridge.

American Crow – a few were near Darrow Bridge and 3 to 4 were scavenging on the sandbar in the Outer Harbor.

Black-capped Chickadee – Heard by Rick on Wooded Island.

American Tree Sparrow – a flock of half dozen were in and around the Rose Garden.

Dark-eyed Junco – 2 or 3 were in the Rose Garden.

Northern Cardinal – 10. On Wooded Island. Two males and three females were in the Rose Garden.

American Goldfinch – x. Wooded Island.

Corrections, additions and comments are welcome.

This report will be recorded on eBird as a group report for the Wooded Island Bird Walks.

The Walks are free and open to one and all. They are held year round. Birders always show up on Darrow Bridge at the start times. Newcomers are warmly welcomed.

The Walks start at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday and at 7:15 a.m. on Wednesday.

Birders gather on Darrow Bridge, which is located south of the Museum of Science and Industry. Ample parking is available east of Darrow Bridge and is accessible from South Lake Shore Drive at 58th Street (labeled Science Drive on a small blue street sign). There is a Stop Light at

58th Street. Make a turn at the Stop Light towards the Museum. Turn Left (south) at the intersection of Science Drive and Columbia Drive. Go through the parking lot to the west end near Darrow Bridge.

Best of Birding to All,

Patricia Durkin

Chicago Audubon Society Representative

Wooded Island Bird Walks